CLAIMS:-

1. A mobile communications network for serving a plurality of mobile terminals each capable of being coupled to the network, wherein the network incorporates means for determining for each mobile terminal accessing the network an operating protocol employed by that terminal, and means for retrieving from a store a corresponding operating protocol whereby to provide control instructions for the network so as to enable communication with that terminal.

2. A mobile communications network adapted to service mobile terminals having different operating protocols, the network including a plurality of multimode base stations each capable of operating selectively in at least some of said operating protocols and each having means for interrogating a said mobile terminal so as to determine that terminal's operating protocol, a store containing sets of operating instructions one for each said protocol, base station control means for controlling the operation of each said base station, and means responsive to the determination of the operating protocol of a said mobile terminal for downloading the corresponding set of operating instructions from the store to the control means whereby to operate the base station serving that mobile terminal in a mode consistent with that operating protocol.

3. A network as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said base station comprises a soft radio unit for providing radio communication to said terminals, operating means, one for each said operating protocol, and means for selectively enabling a said one of said operating means so as to operate the base station in conformity with that operating protocol.

4. A network as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least some of said mobile terminals have means for downloading of operating instructions from the network.

5. A method of operating a mobile communications network so as to service a plurality of terminals each capable of being coupled to the network, wherein the method includes storing a plurality of operating protocols for said terminals, determining for each terminal accessing the network an operating protocol employed by that terminal, and retrieving from the stored protocols a corresponding operating protocol whereby to provide control instructions for that terminal

~~6.~~ A method as claimed in claim ~~5~~, wherein the operating protocol employed by a mobile terminal requesting service is determined from the frequency of radio transmissions from that terminal.

~~7.~~ A method as claimed in claim ~~6~~, and including downloading of operating software from the network to a said terminal.

~~8.~~ A method as claimed in claim ~~7~~, wherein a said operating protocol is determined by negotiation between the network and a said mobile terminal.